

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

SITUATION REPORT # 29

1230 Hours November 14, 2005

*New Information in Bold Italics*

*Next Conference Call is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2005, 0930 hours  
Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1200 hours daily*

## SUMMARY

*The town of Big Stone Gap continues to experience water shortages due to drought like conditions. Actions are being coordinated with surrounding communities and the state to alleviate the adverse conditions. Contingency plans are in place for these actions to continue through November 30, 2005.*

## EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with limited staffing.

**State of Emergency:** On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage. Executive Order 99 (2005) was amended to include an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

**Protective Actions:** Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

## WEATHER

**Forecast:** **Southwest VA: Monday 14 November** – Overcast, high temperatures in low to mid 60s, light winds, chance of precipitation 80%. Monday night – Overcast, low temperatures low 50s, south winds 10 MPH or less, chance of precipitation 90%. **Tuesday 15 November** – Mostly cloudy, high temperatures low to mid 60s, south winds 5 to 15 MPH, chance of precipitation 30%. Tuesday night – Chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening, then showers and thunderstorms after midnight, low temperatures mid to upper 40s, south winds 10 to 15 MPH, chance of precipitation 80%.

## OPERATIONS SECTION

**Local Liaison:** VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Four Coordinator is available as needed.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

**ESF 4 – Firefighting:** Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)  
The VDOF has signs in place notifying residents of the burn ban. ***VDOF reported 19 wildfires burned 205 acres across the Commonwealth on 13 November. All fires have been contained.***

**ESF 8 – Health & Medical:** Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

***VDH continues monitoring absenteeism in Big Stone Gap schools. Two new cases of chickenpox reported on Friday, 11 November. VDH will continue monitoring chickenpox for additional 21 days. VDH Environmental Health Specialist visited all permitted food service establishments on Friday, 11 November to ensure compliance with plans. Radiological test results are still pending, but are expected soon. Linden Mine appears to be a good water resource.*** VDH is compiling reports on current and future potential water sources such as the Bullet Mine and water test results are being compiled into a report. Well at Mt. Empire Community College and two wells in Appalachia are to be tested once pumps are activated.

***ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security:***

Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)

The VNG continues the blivet support mission. Eleven blivets are in place. Twelve soldiers remain on mission. No additional personnel needed at this time.

**HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH**

***ESF 11 – Agriculture & Natural Resources:***

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ continues to work with the town of Big Stone Gap to monitor water production, water sales and calculate the amount of water losses on a monthly basis. DEQ is requesting loss water report from Big Stone Gap to document results of leak detection and stoppage. These efforts need to continue as water supplies for other sources are diminishing.

**INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH**

***ESF 1 – Transportation:***

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

VDOT has four message boards in the Big Stone Gap area and messages are being changed frequently so members of the community do not become complacent. A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water

**LOGISTICS SECTION**

***ESF 7 – Resource Support:***

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies, and is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies. VEOC requested a more detailed account of actual daily water output from all water sources being utilized. This accounting will be shared with all interested parties. VEOC requested Incident Management Team develop timeline for blivet management.

**LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

Current Powell River stream flow is **17 cubic feet per second**. Plans are being made to winterize and otherwise protect temporary above ground water facilities particularly those lying within VDOT's Right-of-Way. Local Incident Management Team continues to develop long range plans including evaluating alternate water sources. ***Big Stone Gap reported that Norton advised they can continue to supply water for approximately 20 days and Appalachia advised they could continue to supply water for 30 days.***

***Powell River Cave #1 is producing approximately 100,000 gallons of water per day and is usually pumped down by 3pm.*** A team from Radford will enter the cave in the near future to determine volume and re-charge capability.